

## U. S. CONSIDERS CONCESSION ON ARMED SHIPS

May Allow British Merchantmen to Carry Guns Both Fore and Aft.

### STRONG PROTEST EXPECTED

Officials Look for Action by Germany if New Regulations Are Expected.

State Department officials let it be known today that the American Government has under consideration the advisability of issuing a new set of regulations to American port officers governing the status of armed merchantmen.

From intimations let drop in these quarters the American Government will probably take the position that the merchant vessels of Great Britain and other belligerent powers are entitled to carry heavier armament than heretofore, and to mount their guns fore as well as aft without losing the right to the customary privileges accorded merchant vessels at American ports.

### Notable Concession.

Should this action be taken it will involve a notable concession to Great Britain, which is preparing to increase the armament of her merchant craft.

It may be expected to bring forth a vigorous protest from Germany, and may lead to serious complications with the government of that country.

The action would be based on the view that the recent operation of German submarines has been of such a character as to warrant the American Government in permitting merchant vessels using its ports a more liberal degree of defensive armament than the present port rules would imply.

### Limits Set by United States.

Under the orders issued to American port officers at the outbreak of the war it was specified that among the factors determining the unoffensive character of a merchant ship were the following: That guns should not exceed six inches in caliber; that there should not be more than two of them and that they should be mounted aft.

According to the press reports from London, the British admiralty has issued orders which are in effect, orders directing that British merchant vessels carry guns of larger caliber than six inches, and to mount them fore as well as aft.

Plain intimations have come from German quarters here that if the admiralty orders are put into effect, Germany will consider that her submarines are entirely justified in sinking such vessels without warning.

### Only Merchantmen Covered.

The pledges to the United States, it has been explained in these quarters—and the statement was repeated today—were intended to cover only merchant vessels. Germany, according to the German embassy view, will never subscribe to the view that merchant ships can retain their status as such if they carried guns fore and aft.

As a matter of fact, it was declared at the State Department today, Secretary Lansing, who has the matter under consideration, has received no official confirmation from Great Britain of the reported changes in armament.

It was indicated, however, that a definite inquiry on the subject is about to be sent to London. The inquiry will also ask as to the truth of the report that the course of these British merchant vessels between the United States and England.

### AVOIDS PEACE DISCUSSION

Senator on Verge of Argument Over Proposed League.

The Senate had a narrow escape this morning from getting into a discussion of the league to enforce peace which President Wilson is advocating and which he wants this country to join.

Senator Brandegee had read a letter showing the purpose of the League to Enforce Peace. It was sent him by the promoters of this movement.

This led Senator William Allen Smith to take the floor briefly and say a few "bricks" at the proposed league.

Senator Tillman has read a joint resolution of the legislature of South Carolina endorsing the league idea.

A general discussion looked imminent, but it was headed off by calls for the regular order.

### RADIO TALKS 'ROUND WORLD

New U. S. Station Near San Diego Proves Power.

SAN DIEGO, Cal., Jan. 29.—The new naval radio station at Chollas Heights, near here, which was formally opened Friday, gave a demonstration of its power yesterday when the operators on duty talked with the Arlington station, the Darlen, Panama, Nome, Alaska, and Honolulu; overheard French operators at work on the island of Pepee, south Pacific, and concluded by exchanging the time of day with operators at a radio station near Melbourne, Australia.

No attempt will be made to flash a message to Europe until the various new instruments have been

## EVANGELIST WINS HEARERS; THOUSANDS TURNED AWAY

Tabernacle Too Small, and Plans Will Be Made to Accommodate Crowds.

"Another Billy Sunday."

Gypsy Smith, Jr., underrated his ability as an evangelist and his power to attract vast congregations, with the result that his tabernacle at Sixteenth and V streets is entirely too small.

The fact that 5,000 persons who struggled for admission failed to get in last night, and were turned away caused the executive committee which arranged the evangelistic campaign to meet today to discuss ways and means of accommodating the crowds.

### May Use Card System.

The demand for seats being about three times as great as the supply, the committee may have to resort to the admission by card only system for the first week, so as to give the congregations of the churches which planned the revival an opportunity to hear the evangelist.

Within half an hour after the four-teen doors of the tabernacle were opened last night, 1,000 more persons than the building was intended to accommodate had crowded their way into it. Half an hour before the services began 5,000 persons standing on the outside were informed by Capt. Robert Doyle and the big police detail that there was no chance of their gaining admittance.

### "Crowd Was With Him."

Gypsy Smith, Jr., was overwhelmed with his success. He never preached to so large a congregation in all his life, and he says he never talked to a more intelligent or attentive crowd.

Today he admitted that ever since accepting the engagement to preach here he had been tormented with fears and doubts as to his ability to achieve success in the National Capital. Even to the very moment he began his first sermon last night he was fearful and trembling, but it required only a few moments for him

### DRY BILL FIGHT UP AGAIN TOMORROW

Preliminary Skirmish on Sheppard Measure in House District Committee.

The prohibition issue will come up again at a meeting of the House District Committee tomorrow morning.

Both the "wet" and "dry" forces on the committee will be on hand and even the preliminary skirmish over the Sheppard bill promises a spirited session.

It is probable that at the outset there will be a wrangle over the question of hearings and the length of hearings, as well as the referendum amendment.

The "dry" element in the House desires that the Sheppard bill shall be reported from committee and passed just as it stands.

### Insist on Referendum.

The "wets" are opposed to any action at all, but if there must be action they insist that the referendum amendment shall be included in the prohibition bill.

A petition similar to that which Senator Underwood presented to the Senate is now before the House committee.

This petition asks that Congress will not force prohibition on the District, but will give the citizens here a chance to vote for or against prohibition.

The referendum idea appeals to a number of members of the District Committee, notably Congressman Warren Worth Bailey of Pennsylvania who probably will lead the fight.

### Close Friend of Bryan.

Mr. Bailey is a close friend of William Jennings Bryan, one of the leaders in the national prohibition movement, but Congressman Bailey avers he cannot support a prohibition measure which denies Washingtonians a right to vote on the issue.

That the District Committee will decide to hold hearings is reasonably certain. The committee has yet to report on the Sheppard bill.

### POTOMAC BRIDGE APPROVED

War Department O. K.'s Span for Proposed New Railroad.

The War Department has approved a bill by Congressman Jones of Virginia, providing for the construction of a bridge across the Potomac, south of Washington, for the proposed Baltimore to Newport News railroad.

If Congress acts favorably and authorizes construction of the bridge, the War Department will then pass upon the plans for the proposed bridge, and its approval is necessary before construction can be begun.

### NO LEAK HERE.

Secrecy has become so much a habit at the State Department that it has so far refused to give out the birthday message President Wilson sent to Kaiser Wilhelm Saturday.

Florida, All East and West Coast Points reached. 4 trains daily via Atlantic Coast Line. Office 1406 New York ave. n.w.—Adv.

## THIRD HOLD-UP IN THREE DAYS IN WASHINGTON

Pedestrian Robbed at New Jersey Avenue and D Street Southeast.

### THREATENED WITH PISTOL

Negro Obtains \$18 and Flees. Police See Return of Crime Wave.

Signs of a return of the wave of robbery which alarmed Washington during the months preceding Christmas grew stronger today, when another hold-up—the third in the District and vicinity in three days—was reported to the police.

Burton Caynor, 1916 Eighth street northwest, told the police that a negro halted him at New Jersey avenue and D street southeast a few minutes after midnight, pointed a pistol at him and demanded his money.

### Went Through Pockets.

Caynor said the man went through his pockets, took \$18 in bills and fled. Detective Frank Baur hurried to the scene and started an investigation, and shortly afterward a description of the negro was flashed to police throughout the city.

Caynor said the negro had dark brown skin, was about twenty-five years old and weighed about 150 pounds. Caynor said the negro ran west in D street.

### Seen Similarly in Crimes.

Inspector Cliff I. Grant, chief of detectives, expressed the firm belief today that the man who held up Paul Hinsley, Washington chauffeur, on a lonely road in Rockville Saturday night, robbed him and escaped in Henaley's car, after being chased ten miles through the country by a posse, is one of two hold-up men who operated recently in the vicinity of the city.

The inspector recalled that not long ago a man was held up in Chester under circumstances identical with those under which Hinsley was trapped in Rockville Saturday.

The search for Hinsley's assailant, which was reported yesterday, when Sheriff Gathier, of Montgomery county, Md., learned that, after eluding his pursuers, the hold-up man bought a ticket for this city at Germantown.

### Police in Active Hunt.

The train reached Washington at 9:30 yesterday morning, however, before the sheriff was able to notify the local police. The Washington authorities are making every effort to capture the man.

When the fugitive reached Germantown early yesterday morning he was nearly exhausted from his wild trip through the woods.

### Bought New Clothes.

He went to the store of Robert Humphrey and purchased a pair of gray trousers and tan shoes. His shoes were soaked from the snow and his trousers were torn by the brush, Humphrey told the sheriff.

George Mires, the night clerk at the White House Loushroom at Fifth and D streets northwest, who was held up in the eating place early yesterday by two young white men, who looted the cash register of \$3 in change, "put one over" on the highwaymen, it was learned today.

Only a few moments before the hold-up men entered the lunchroom at 5 o'clock, Mires had taken a large sum of money from the register.

### U-BOAT IN MEDITERRANEAN

Reports Sinking of Three Vessels, Including Transport.

BERLIN (via Tuckertown wireless), Jan. 29.—A German submarine in the Mediterranean, according to an official announcement today has sunk the following vessels:

January 9.—A fully-armed and loaded steamer of about 5,000 tons.

January 15.—The armed British tanker (Garfield), of 3,800 tons, bound from Malta to Italy, said with coal and oil. The Garfield's captain was taken prisoner.

January 25.—Armed hostile transport, about 350 miles east of Malta by a torpedo. The steamer was steering eastward and was conveyed by a French torpedo boat.

The steamer, which was crammed with troops, sank in ten minutes, the statement said.

### REVENUE BILL REPORTED

Vote Due Tomorrow on Measure to Raise \$248,000,000.

The House Committee on Ways and Means today by a strict party vote favorably reported the increased revenue bill as drafted by the majority members and approved in Democratic caucus.

The bill, which is to raise \$248,000,000, will be taken up in the House tomorrow. A vote is expected tomorrow afternoon.

### PRESIDENT PLAYS GOLF

Braves Snow, But Rain Drives Him In From Links.

The snow which covered the links at the Washington Country Club this morning could not keep Mr. Wilson off the course. But a heavy rain, which began to fall soon after he had passed the eighth hole, sent him back to the clubhouse in a bit of a hurry.

## PLINY FISK DENIES CHARGES MADE BY LAWSON BEFORE COMMITTEE PROBING LEAK

### ARGUMENTS ON VALUATION DATE

Pepco Attorney Declares Finding of Company Value Should Be for 1916.

### CITES COURT DECISION

Says Commission Should Now to Line and Let Benefits Fall as They May.

Contending that Potomac Electric Power Company valuations should be of July 1, 1916, as found by experts for the company, and not of July 1, 1914, as found by the valuation bureau of the commission, Charles A. Douglas, counsel for the power company, today began before the Public Utilities Commission, closing arguments in the hearing on valuation of the company's properties.

Mr. Douglas requested that valuation of the Potomac Electric Power Company be not finally determined until that of the Washington Railway and Electric Company had been determined. He said he made this request because of the close relationship between the two companies.

With respect to the Potomac Electric Power Company valuation Mr. Douglas said that in all cases examined by him, numbering between 50 and 100, he did not find a single court decision, from those of the Supreme Court of the United States down, which did not uphold him in his contention. Both the company's and the commission's valuations were filed at about the same time, but the latter's valuation was based on the supposed cost of reproduction on July 1, 1914.

### See Different Conditions.

In July, 1914, he said the country was in a state of depression, there were no industrial developments, and the cost of labor was low, while in July, 1916, exactly opposite conditions prevailed.

"It might be argued that in 1916 conditions were abnormal because of the war," he said, "but it would be pure speculation on the part of the commission to say, for instance, when the price of copper will decrease."

"Who can tell when the war will end? It may be this year or next, or the year following. And when it does end, the United States, with its riches and enormous resources, will be called upon to do the business of the world."

### NEW JERSEY CONVICTS RIOT

Outbreak Follows Inspection of State Prison by Governor.

TRENTON, N. J., Jan. 29.—Rioting yesterday and today by convicts at the State prison followed the inspection of that institution Saturday afternoon by Governor Edge and the prison investigating commission. The outbreak among the convicts started shortly after chapel service yesterday and was not quelled until this morning, when twenty ring-leaders were isolated in the abandoned wing No. 3.

When it came time for the prisoners to go to work this morning there was a general strike threatened, but the deputies finally succeeded in getting all of the convicts except the twenty to go to the shops.

The disorder was the greatest in wing 6, where shortly after the prisoners had been returned from chapel yesterday they commenced to yell and scream, pounding on their cell bars with tin pans and other implements. During the trouble, beds were overturned, windows broken and furniture destroyed generally.

### THIRD LEADS IN HEALTH

D. C. Guard Shows Best Medical Record on Border.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., Jan. 29.—In addition to its other claims to distinction, the Third District of Columbia infantry can boast of being the healthiest regiment of the Twelfth division at Camp Wilson. Figures show that the sick rate in the command is less than that of any of the other organizations, and that few men are in the hospital.

In fact, a Washington guardman sick enough to go to the base hospital is almost a curiosity. The health record being set by the Third is attracting attention from high military officials of the Southern department. A program of routine training was carried out in camp today.

### GIRL ATTACKED BY WOLF

Posse Trails and Kills Animal. Child Escapes.

ROCHESTER, Jan. 29.—When Lucy Ballard twelve years old, who lives a few miles from Penn Yan, started for Sunday school yesterday a large gray wolf ran out of a pasture lane and attacked her.

Adam Babcock, a farmer, heard her cries and ran to help her. The animal fled. A posse trailed the wolf to a gulch, where it was killed. It weighed seventy-five pounds. The Ballard girl received a few scratches.

### POTATOES HIT NEW RECORD PRICE HERE

Several Barrels of McCormicks Sold at \$6 After Steady Increase.

What is said to be the highest price for potatoes in local markets was reached today, when several barrels of McCormicks were sold at \$6. The price has been steadily creeping up almost daily until the high water mark was reached today. In former years, it is said, a farmer made money from a crop of McCormick potatoes if he realized 50 cents a bushel. Dealers, half seriously, stated that if the price continues to advance, those potatoes will be selling by the dozen rather than measure.

Another advance may be expected in the price of onions, dealers believe. They were selling this morning at from \$3.50 to \$7 for 100 pounds. This is an advance of 50 cents a hundred pounds since Saturday.

Sweet potatoes took an unexpected leap this morning from \$2 to \$4 a sack to \$4 or even more. Eggs remained the same. There is likely to be no change for several days, dealers stated, but when a break does come, the prices will drop rapidly. They were wholesaling at from 35 to 40 cents a dozen and retailing at from 45 to 50 cents.

### U. S. TROOPS RUSH RIOTING MEXICANS

Crowd Hurts Missiles at Soldiers Enforcing Quarantine on International Bridge.

EL PASO, Tex., Jan. 29.—Serious rioting by Mexicans at the Juarez end of the international bridge was resumed at 7 o'clock today. A crowd of 150 men and women, incensed at not being allowed to cross the bridge until bathed, began throwing stones and bottles at the American soldiers doing duty as customs guards.

Sergeant Peck, of Company A, Twenty-third infantry, was struck by the shower of stones and injured about the head. Roy Schuyler, of the customs guard, was struck by a bottle and slightly injured.

### Attacked by Cavalry

Company A rushed the mob and pushed them back across the center of the bridge. About 8 o'clock Mexican cavalrymen, with whips, charged the mob and drove all off the bridge, but were unable to disperse the crowd.

The street car company did not resume service across the bridge today, and Americans are not allowed to cross the line.

Shouts of "Death to Gringos" are heard at frequent intervals.

### One Mexican Killed.

Federal authorities announced that one Mexican was killed during a riot yesterday and several others injured. David McChesney, an American reporter, was caught in the crowd, the women tearing his clothing and scratching his face, and shouting "Kill the Gringo!" During the rioting some women shouted "Viva Villa! Death to the Americans!"

### Quarantine Resented.

The rioting started as the result of a misunderstanding when United States officials began enforcing stricter quarantine regulations because of the increase of typhus at Juarez. More than 400 women employed on this side of the border gathered at the international bridge. Under the new order they were not allowed to cross until 7 a. m., and then only after rigid inspection.

Because of the rioting and large funeral procession, the Juarez race track closed today for the season.

### U. S. TO PROTECT BISHOPS

Carranza Authorities Reported To Be Seeking Churchmen.

The United States Government is going to do everything in its power to protect the bishops of Zacatecas and Guadalupe, the first of whom is being sought by the Carranza authorities in Mexico, and the latter now under arrest on a charge of treason.

This announcement was made today at the White House following the receipt of information from Secretary of State Lansing, which was transmitted to the Executive mansion.

### PLAYHOUSE SUIT PUT OFF

Illness of Justice Stafford Necessitates Postponement.

Owing to an indisposition which necessitated Justice Stafford's absence from the court, the hearing of the suit for an injunction brought against the owners of the Playhouse, Washington society's amusement resort, by Admitrak and Mrs. Seaton Schroeder, has been postponed until Thursday afternoon at 1 o'clock.

Justice Stafford has been confined to his home by a severe cold for the past week, and will not be able to take his seat again on the bench for at least several days.

### New York Banker Says Bostonian Should Be Sent to Prison as Perjuror.

### GENERAL CONTRADICTION

Has Had Only Routine Relations With McAdoo of Late, He Testifies.

### NO FAVORITISM, HE SAYS

Declares Federal Bank Offices Were Chosen Because of Superior Vaults.

NEW YORK, Jan. 29.—After entering categorical denial of having had any leak information from a Cabinet member or slicing a leak pool with Secretary McAdoo, Pliny Fisk, banker, suggested to the House note leak committee this afternoon that Thomas W. Lawson be imprisoned as a perjurer.

He held Lawson had "wantonly" blackened a reputable name, but that perhaps "it was the result of a disordered brain."

And, while denying all knowledge of a leak or of a deal with McAdoo, Fisk admitted previous close business relations with the Secretary.

### Was Associated With Him.

He had closed up the Secretary's business when he became a Cabinet member and had been associated in McAdoo's Hudson tube project.

Incidentally, he admitted urging McAdoo to select the Fisk property here for a Federal reserve bank location, and this was done for a year and a half, though Fisk claimed, solely because it had superior vault facilities.

### Hotly Denies Charge.

Lawson's testimony, quoting Archibald White as saying Fisk had boasted of having control over McAdoo, was hotly denied, and provoked this outburst from Fisk:

"This statement of Lawson's about an alleged interview with Archibald White has gone broadcast, and I think that Mr. Lawson should be taken at his word and be put behind the bars for perjury for wantonly using a reputable name as he did mine."

"I said at the time that maybe it was the result of a disordered brain, and in that case the good Lord might take care of it in His own way."

### Emphatic Denial.

When Mr. Fisk was asked concerning the truth of the statement attributed by Lawson to Archibald White, the banker, that he had boasted of controlling the Secretary of the Treasury, the witness denied emphatically that he had ever made such a claim.

The story of White, as repeated by Lawson, was that White had met Fisk at a club and that Fisk, in order to exhibit his fancied power over Secretary McAdoo, had offered to call him up on the long distance telephone, and even to ask him to come to New York.

### Scarcely Knew White.

In his denial Mr. Fisk declared that he scarcely knew White, would probably not have known him at all if they had not at one time lived at the same apartment house, in the winter time—that he had never met White at a club, and that he belongs to no clubs of which White was a member.

Mr. Fisk is a member of the banking firm of Harvey Fisk & Sons.

The witness when questioned by Sherman L. Whipple, the committee counsel, denied with equal emphasis that the transactions of his house on the Stock Exchange between December 10 and 23 included handling an account for any "Government official, Cabinet officer, or man high up in public life."

### Most "Over Counter."

In submitting a transcript of the firm's dealings, which were in syndicate so that the names of customers were not disclosed, Mr. Fisk said the great bulk of their business in that period had been "over the counter," that is, buying and selling Government bonds and high-class securities, which were subject to little fluctuation, and did not pass through the Stock Exchange.

In addition, however, the house had half a dozen brokers trading for it on the Stock Exchange, and in connection with these accounts that Mr. Whipple sought to learn whether the name of any Administration official was involved.

Other brokers with whom he had had dealings were Carlisle, Finck & Co.; H. M. Whitney & Co.; Finck & Tarbell; E. D. Levinson, and L. M. Prince & Co.

### No Relations With McAdoo.

As for knowing McAdoo, Fisk said he had had relations with the Secretary when the latter was building the Hudson tubes; but added, "since he became Secretary our paths have seldom crossed."

Fisk described himself as a "dealer in investment securities," chiefly Government bonds and industrial issues. He did business with other firms, he said, notably Foster and Lounsbury, and others whose names he promised to secure. Moreover, the firm, he said, "trades for our own account."

Fisk was empowered to close up McAdoo's business affairs when he went to the Cabinet, and he did this.